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MASSACHUSETTS

HERITAGE STATE PARKS

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Massachusetts
History



THE SPIRIT
OF THE 19TH CENTURY CONTINUES.



We're celebrating in Massachusetts. We're celebrating our cities and our people, our past and our future. We're celebrating our Heritage State Park system. The Massachusetts Urban Heritage State Park program is a national model in urban landscape design, historic preservation and economic revitalization. The Heritage State Parks capture the spirit of the 19th-century industrial revolution in their cities and celebrate the people, products and places that have made Massachusetts' history.

These parks, located throughout Massachusetts, provide recreation and an opportunity to explore the education and culture of the 19th century.

Massachusetts is introducing this idea to America. We are not only offering the nation a model for revitalizing mature cities, but also encouraging economic growth within the state. The Heritage State Parks breathe new life into their cities by promoting tourism and fostering private investment. More important, the parks can be enjoyed by the people who live in and around them today.

Visitors to the Heritage State Parks can explore the past and visualize the future. The open spaces and Visitor Centers in the parks' downtown areas provide fun and a relaxing place to learn about an industrial city's past.

Most of the parks will display exhibits in a Visitor Center housed in an historic building. Walking tours, interpretive programs and special events are planned in each city. Shops and restaurants now occupy converted mills in some of the cities.

The Heritage State Parks represent the industrial backbone of our Commonwealth. Each park reflects the unique character of its city and a renewed sense of pride. Buildings are rejuvenated; the commons and waterways are alive with activity.

The parks described here are the first to be developed by the state's Department of Environmental Management. Others are now being planned across the Commonwealth including the Blackstone Valley and Canal Heritage State Park, Roxbury Heritage State Park, Lower Mills Heritage State Park and Turners Falls Heritage State Park.

The Massachusetts Heritage State Park system celebrates our past while investing in our future.



From Postarket Street
in Northern Canal
Somerville, c. 1910
Well History Society

L O W E L L

S T E P I N T O T H E A G E O F W A T E R P O W E R.

The Lowell Heritage State Park is the Commonwealth's first, and it celebrates the history of water power. The American Industrial Revolution was born here, early in the 19th century, when Francis Cabot Lowell memorized designs for power looms in England and brought them to this city on the Merrimack River. Pawtucket Falls, in Lowell, generated enough waterpower to support a cloth manufacturing industry, and a web of canals was constructed to harness this power. The mill buildings, left by that thriving industry, are among the country's most striking examples of industrial-era architecture. Today, they continue to hum with commercial activity.

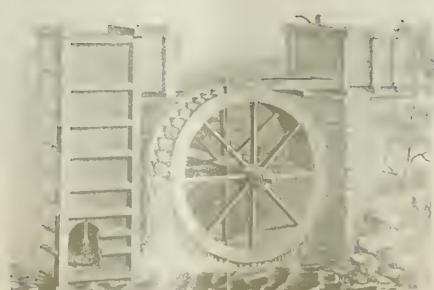
The Lowell Heritage State Park Visitor Center located in the historic Mack building on Shattuck Street, contains exciting exhibits which tell the history of waterpower.

In Lowell, 5.6 miles of canals can be toured on land or by barge. Along the way are historic homes, churches, taverns, shops and restaurants, as well as contemporary galleries and museums.

Strollers and joggers will enjoy the Vandenberg Esplanade, a picturesque urban park that runs along the Merrimack River. Public sailing and rowing programs are offered at the recently completed Bellegarde Boathouse nearby, and performing arts programs are presented in the Sampas Pavilion. Tour St. Anne's Church, which was built by the same men who constructed the city's complex system of canals. Summer festivals celebrate Lowell's multi-ethnic heritage with food and entertainment.

An antique trolley begins its tours between the Lowell Heritage State Park and the National Historical Park Visitor Centers on Market Street. The Park Visitors Center presents a multi-image slide show, and pamphlets describing a self-guided tour of the city are available. The Mill and Canal Tour is a dramatic three-hour adventure the whole family will enjoy, and reservations may be made by calling (617) 459-1000.

The Lowell Heritage State Park brings to life an exciting history. The canals and streets, restaurants and neighborhoods are all part of the excitement. An excitement about our 19th century heritage which is rapidly growing in other cities throughout Massachusetts.



L A W R E N C E

THE POWER OF PEOPLE AND PRODUCTS.

Lawrence Heritage State Park captures the true spirit of the American Industrial Revolution and the people who worked hard to make it happen. The park celebrates the city that drew immigrants from 52 nations and commemorates the site of the great Bread and Roses Strike. Also known as the Great Strike of 1912, this event sparked the American Labor Movement and brought about national reforms of workers' rights laws.

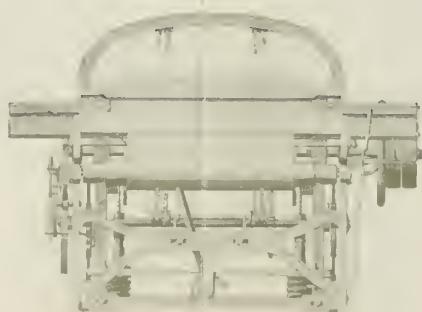
Heritage State Park locations throughout the city will offer historical exhibits, ongoing entertainment and a variety of ethnic foods. Pleasant walks may be taken within the park, along the Merrimack River and canals.

A restored workers' boarding house beside a canal is the site for the Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitor Center. Here, historical interpreters and exhibits will give visitors a sense of what life in a mill city was like. At its industrial peak, Lawrence produced 800 miles of cloth per day.

Lining the streets of Lawrence are many beautiful old buildings renovated for contemporary use. An old public library, Victorian mansions and brick buildings have been converted to offices, contemporary shops and restaurants. Downtown parks are being developed along the Merrimack River and the North Canal in areas where generations of people have lived and worked.

The Canal Street Greenway, which runs along the North Canal, will link the Visitor Center with Pemberton Park which is located where mills once stood on a century-old man-made island. Another park area is the Campagnone Common. Already open, its freshly landscaped grounds extend almost 18 acres from a central fountain commemorating Lawrence's native son, Robert Frost. Also on the Common is the Leonard Bernstein outdoor performance stage, which offers a wide range of summer entertainment. Information on guided walking tours of the city will be available at the Heritage State Park Visitor Center in the summer of 1985.

Stroll through Lawrence's downtown area, relax in the parks, learn the city's history. Lawrence is a city that owes everything to the power of its people, and the Lawrence Heritage State Park is central to the city's development today.







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THE INNOVATION OF PEOPLE BY THE SEA.

The Boston skyline, as seen across Lynn Harbor from the Lynn Heritage State Park site, is a view that has changed much over the centuries. It reflects the ways in which people have used the sea and developed their harbors. Once a major distribution center for coal, lumber and shoes, Lynn Harbor is now busy with pleasure boats and chartered cruise ships. Tours to the Boston Harbor Islands will originate here, and soon there will be paddle boats for hire.

The Lynn Heritage State Park, located on Lynn Harbor, will be open in the fall of 1985. Not only will the park celebrate the innovative ways in which Lynn's people have used the sea, but it will provide an attractive setting for housing, shopping, dining and community recreation such as boating.

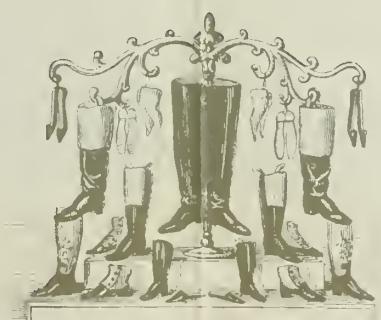
Nineteenth-century shoe factories have been converted to new housing and stand juxtaposed with contemporary office buildings. The contrast between old and new suggests the history of Lynn's development.

Beginning in the 1700's, craftsmen produced shoes in tiny backyard shops called "ten-footers." With the industrial revolution came accelerated shoe production, and Lynn's people took full advantage of their harbor to become the country's foremost distributor of shoes.

Housed in a restored industrial building, the Visitor Center at the Lynn Heritage State Park will display exhibits tracing the history of America's largest shoe-manufacturing city. A complete cobbler's workshop will be constructed inside the Visitor Center, and interpreters will illuminate three centuries of Lynn's history.

Lynn's renaissance is evident along the festive waterfront. Visitors to the Heritage State Park will enjoy renovated buildings, waterfront specialty shops, and the 160-slip marina.

Today, many high-tech industries make Lynn their home. General Electric, a company which has grown with the city, is among them. Lynn and its industries have realized dynamic changes over the years, and the Heritage State Park celebrates this spirit of innovation.



F A L L R I V E R

R E W E A V I N G T H E S P I R I T O F O U R P A S T.

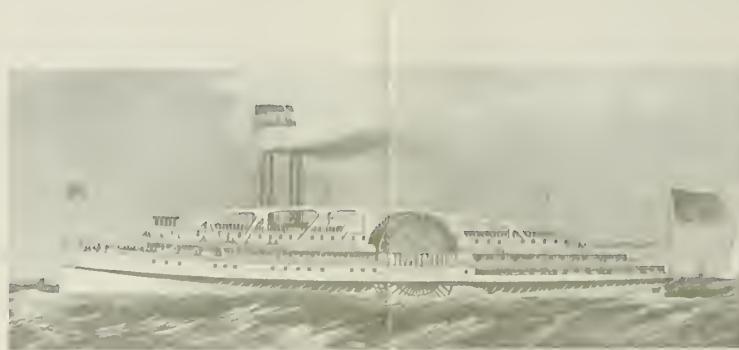
The Heritage State Park at Battleship Cove celebrates hard-working people by the sea. The Visitor Center here offers a multi-image slide presentation of Fall River's spectacular textile history. Abundant waterpower, a navigable harbor, and energetic people propelled Fall River to prominence as a textile manufacturing city. At its peak, Fall River produced more cloth than any city in the nation, and the mills that grew up around the Taunton and Quequechan Rivers recall a colorful past.

In and around the Heritage State Park at Battleship Cove, walking tours reveal Fall River's distinct textile and maritime activities. Refurbished mills house light industry as well as factory outlet stores which offer bargains to shoppers. The famed Fall River needle trades are still in action.

Fall River's great maritime tradition comes alive at Battleship Cove. Board the attack submarine U.S.S. *Lionfish*, explore the U.S.S. *Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr.* and the U.S.S. *Massachusetts*. Tour information is available at the Bristol County Development Council booth in the Heritage State Park Visitor Center and at the Marine Museum at Battleship Cove.

Located on Water Street, the Marine Museum documents the history of the Old Fall River Steamship Line. "The History of Nautical Steam" can be traced through oil paintings, lithographs, photographs, and memorabilia.

A walk through Fall River, beginning at the Heritage State Park Visitor Center at Battleship Cove, will weave together threads of history and reveal the fabric of the people who make Fall River what it is today.







S P R I N G F I E L D

THE PRIDE OF OUR HERITAGE COMES ALIVE.

The Heritage State Park's Court Square, in the heart of Springfield, offers a glimpse of another era. Central to this revitalized downtown area, and surrounded by ornamental trees and shrubs, is an antebellum water fountain. Original patterns were used in the restoration of this fountain, which provides an elegant focal point to the Square.

The original bounds of the square have been extended by a brick plaza, which faces stately examples of 19th-century architecture. Among the nearby landmarks are H. H. Richardson's Hampden County Courthouse and Springfield's Old First Church. Also nearby is the historic Springfield Buyer's Block, as well as many restaurants, theaters, and shops.

A short stroll from the Square will take visitors to the Quadrangle, the site of a cluster of cultural institutions. Concerts are held in the renovated Symphony Hall, and special events take place at the Springfield Civic Center. The nearby Museum of Fine Arts, the Springfield Science Museum, and the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum display a variety of art work and exhibits.

Just a block from Court Square is Springfield's Riverfront Park. Here, concerts, theater, and dance are performed on an outdoor stage. Also by the river is Springfield's Basketball Hall of Fame.

The Springfield Heritage State Park in Court Square links people with their heritage and celebrates community activities of today.



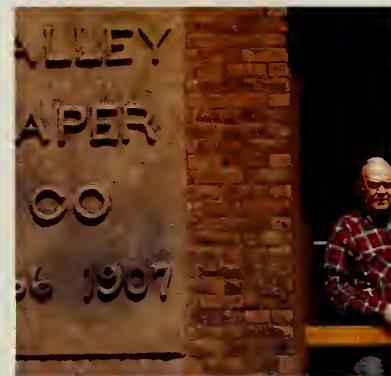
H O L Y O K E

THE VISION AND VITALITY OF A MODEL CITY.

Holyoke is one of the first planned industrial centers in the nation, and the Holyoke Heritage State Park celebrates this model city. Located where a freight yard once stood, the five-acre park borders one of Holyoke's canals. The park overlooks historic brick mills, once used for the manufacture of paper and thread, and the Visitor Center houses an extensive exhibit which traces the struggles and triumphs of the people who came to Holyoke to live and work.

Holyoke was once one of the largest industrial centers in Massachusetts, serving markets throughout the world. During the mid- to late-1800's, canals extending from a dam on the Connecticut River provided waterpower to Holyoke's textile and paper mills. Factories, streets and houses were developed around these canals, and today the mills and canals are in active use.

There are many ways to explore the Holyoke Heritage State Park. Board an antique railcar for a five mile round trip through Holyoke and the surrounding countryside. Enjoy a leisurely boat ride through Holyoke's canals. Explore the city, browse in the nearby mill shops, or relax in one of Holyoke's many restaurants. A children's museum is now being developed in the park. It will contain hands-on exhibits for children and adults to enjoy. At the Holyoke Heritage State Park lectures, concerts, walking tours and festivals blend the past with the present.







G A R D N E R

EXPLORE OUR TRADITION OF FURNITURE CRAFT.

Nicknamed "Chair City of the World," Gardner is noted for its production of Windsor chairs and wicker furniture. Victorian charm characterizes this industrious city, in which tree-lined streets will connect distinct park areas.

The first park area is downtown, where visitors may stroll through urban plazas. The Visitor Center on Lake Street, open in the winter of 1985, will be located in a historic firehouse, where hands-on exhibits and interpretive displays will celebrate the growth of Gardner's furniture industry.

Early in the 19th century, James Comee established Gardner's first chair factory in his home. By the middle of that century, Levi Heywood designed machinery to mass-produce chairs, and Gardner moved to the forefront of American chair manufacturing. Factories in Gardner still produce a wide range of furniture.

Just outside the downtown area is Dunn's Pond. Visitors to this tranquil segment of the park may picnic on the grounds or take part in recreational activities and special events.

Gardner's Heritage State Park, situated among the rolling hills and woods of central Massachusetts, celebrates the proud history of innovative craftsmen.



N O R T H A D A M S

DISCOVER THE SPIRIT OF AMERICAN TRAINS.

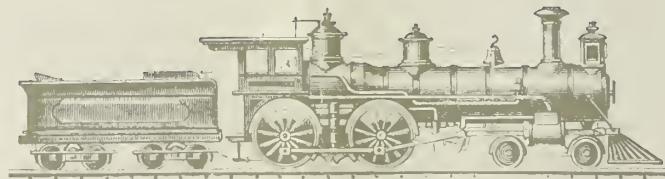
When it opens in the summer of 1985, the Western Gateway Heritage State Park in North Adams will have a 19th-century train story to tell. North Adams has been a stopping point for trains crossing the Berkshires since the drilling of the Hoosac Tunnel more than a century ago. The completion of this tunnel represents one of the greatest engineering feats of the 19th century, and exhibits at the Western Gateway Heritage State Park will demonstrate the twenty-five years of labor that produced what was then the world's longest railroad tunnel.

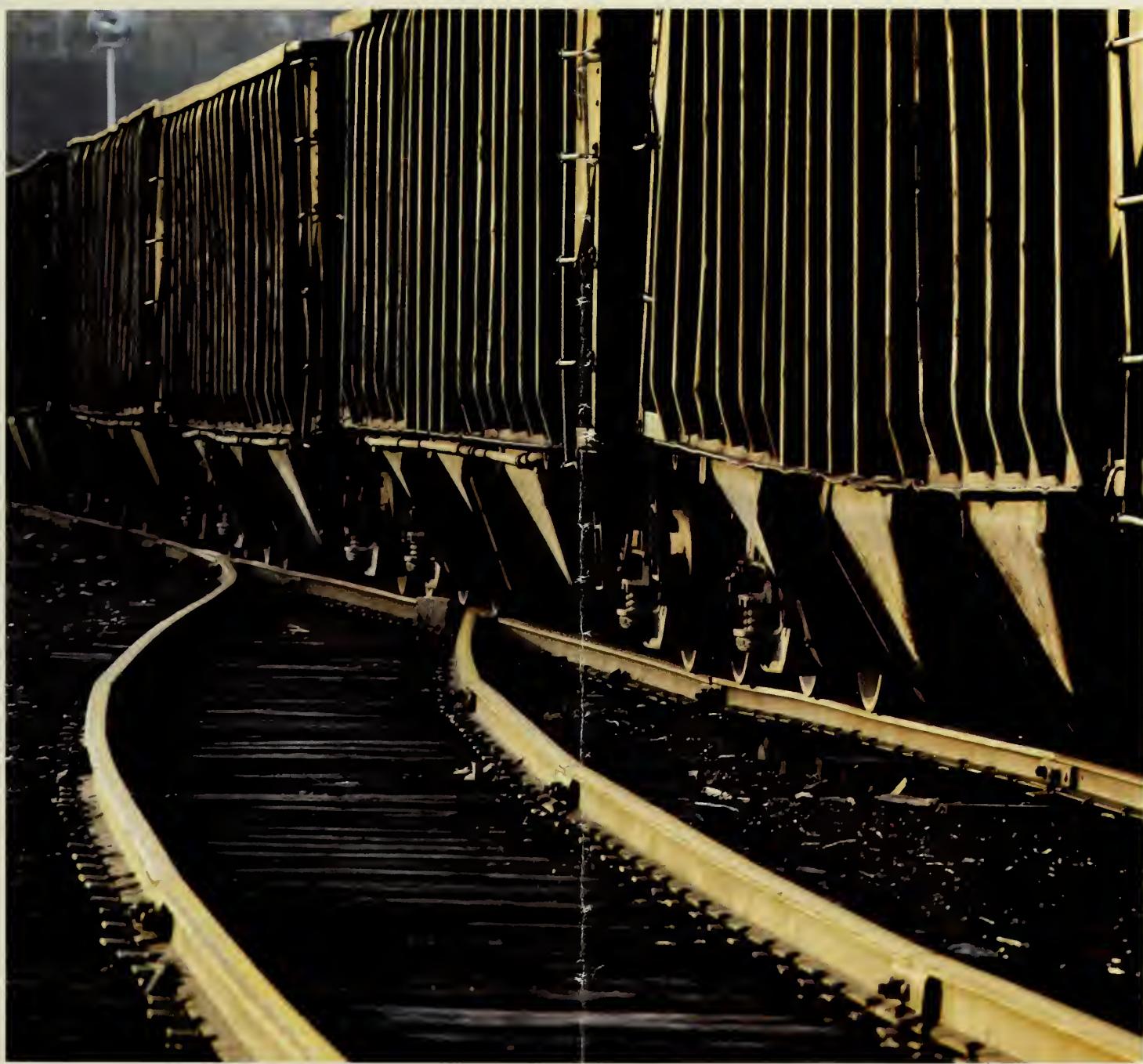
The park is located in North Adams' National Register Freight Yard District. Here, six rejuvenated wood-framed buildings surround a cobblestone courtyard. Open in the summer of 1985, these 19th-century structures will house contemporary specialty shops, restaurants, and participatory exhibits. Park staff will relate how water power from the Hoosac River and completion of the tunnel fueled the turn-of-the-century growth of this city.

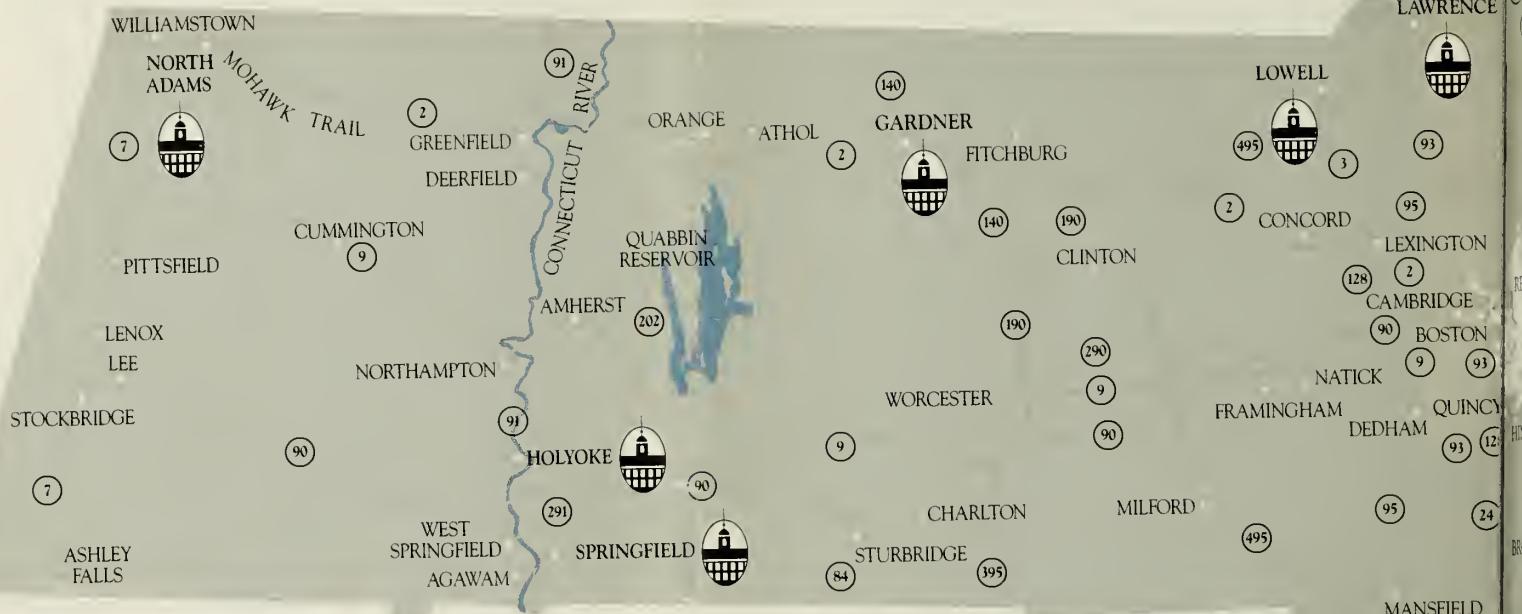
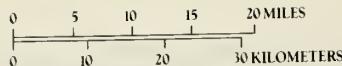
North Adams' Eagle Street and Monument Square Historic District is just a short walk from the Freight Yard. This area, North Adams' downtown trade center, offers some of America's finest examples of Victorian architecture.

A short distance from the Freight Yard is Witt's Ledge, offering a sweeping view of the Hoosac Valley, and Natural Bridge, a naturally formed marble arch spanning Hudson Brook.

Iron smelting and textile manufacturing once thrived in North Adams, making it a full-scale industrial city and a railroad boomtown. The Western Gateway Heritage State Park celebrates this city's proud industrial past.







LYNN:

From Boston, travel on 1A N to The Lynnway North. The Heritage State Park is just off The Lynnway, before the beach, next to the Porthole Pub. The park will be open during the spring of 1986.

Activities:

- Visit Lynn Beach on The Lynnway
- Hike in Lynn Woods
- Shop in downtown Lynn
- Dine at a variety of excellent seafood and continental restaurants

For more information call:
The Community Development Office at (617) 598-4000.

LAWRENCE:

From Boston, travel on 93N to I-495N and take the downtown/Marston Street exit to Lawrence. The Campagnone Common and the Island Riverfront Park are now open. The Park Visitor Center and other areas open in the spring of 1986.

Activities:

- Community Boating Program
- A variety of ethnic restaurants
- Quality factory outlets for furniture and clothes

For more information call:
The Community Development Office at (617) 686-7075.

LOWELL:

From Boston take Route 93N to Route 495S. Exit at Lowell Connector. Stay on Connector until Thorndike Street exit. Follow signs to National & State Park. The park is now open.

Activities:

- Mill and Canal Tour
- Mack Building Waterpower Exhibit
- Sampas Pavilion Performances
- Public Sailing and Rowing Programs at Vandenberg Esplanade
- Ethnic Festivals

For more information call:
Visitor & Tour Information: (617) 459-1000
Heritage State Park Office: (617) 453-1950.

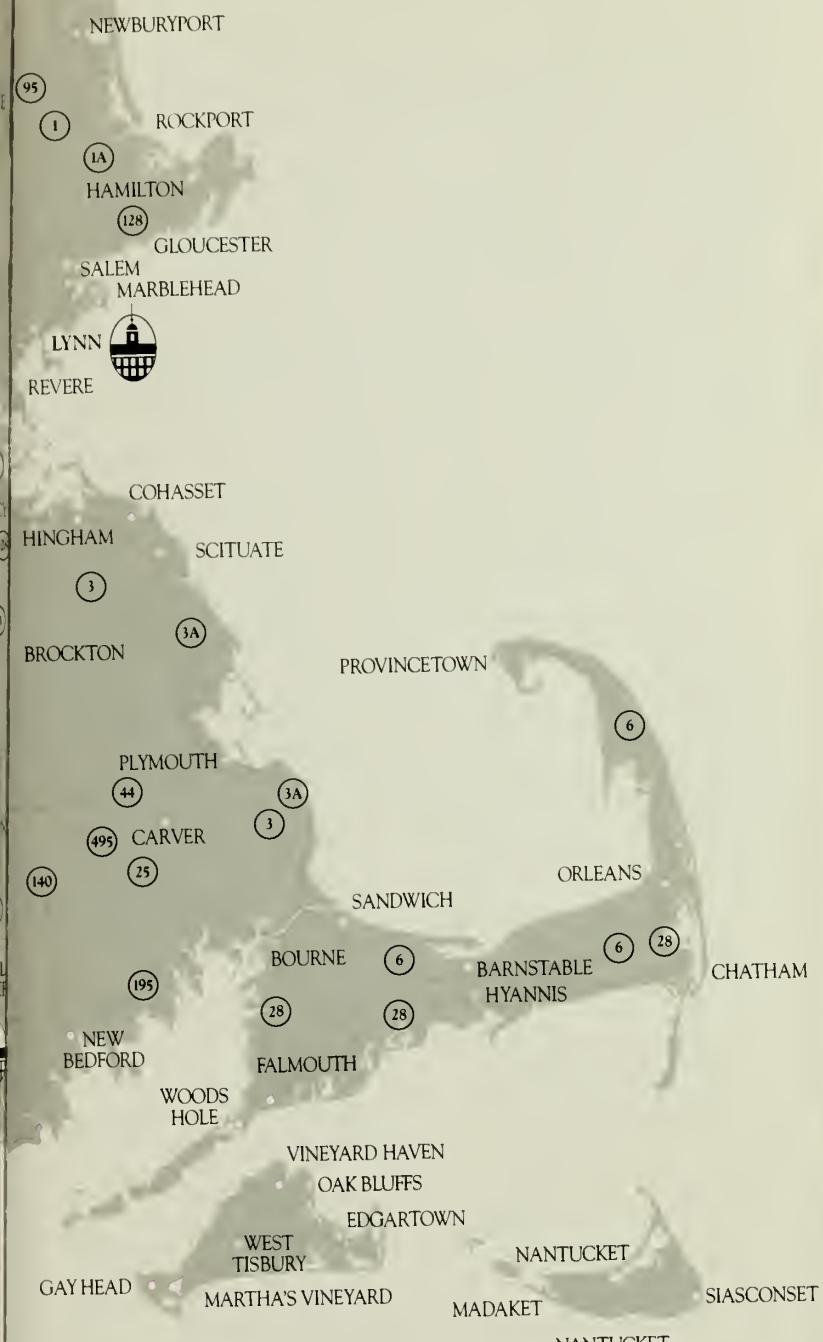
GARDNER:

Directions: Take Route 68N off of Route 2 and follow signs into West Gardner Square. Take a right on to Lynde Street, park and walk up Lake Street Extension to the Visitor Center. The park will be open during the winter of 1985.

Activities:

- Shop in quality factory outlets for furniture
- Visit Dunn's Pond

For more information call:
Heritage State Park Office (617) 632-7329.



NORTH ADAMS:

Directions: There will be signs off Route 2 and Route 8, leading to the Heritage State Park. The park will be open in the summer of 1985.

Activities:

- See the Western Summit and the Hairpin Turn on the Mohawk Trail
- Hike on Mount Greylock
- Visit The Natural Bridge
- Attend the Fall Foliage Parade and Festival

For more information call:
The Western Gateway Heritage State Park Visitors Center (413) 663-6312.

HOLYOKE:

From the Mass. Turnpike (I-90) take Exit 4 onto Route 91N. Take Exit 17A. Continue straight until fork in road. Bear right at fork. Continue straight through three sets of traffic lights. Park is 100 yards on left. The park is now open.

Activities:

- Children's Museum (opening in 1986)
- Railroad excursion on antique railcars
- Barge tours on the canals

For more information call:
(413) 534-1723.

SPRINGFIELD:

Directions: From Boston, take exit 6 off the Massachusetts Turnpike to I-291, to I-91S, to the Columbus Avenue exit. Turn left on State Street and follow signs to Court Square. The park is now open.

Activities:

- Museums on the Quadrangle
- Theatre at Riverfront Park
- Basketball Hall of Fame
- Dining and shopping in nearby restaurants and stores

For more information contact:
The Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs at (413)-737-6099.

FALL RIVER:

Directions: From Boston, take 24S to 79S, take Davol Street exit, and follow the signs for the Fall River Heritage State Park and Battleship Cove. Follow these signs also when coming from I-195. The park is now open.

Activities:

- Navy ships at Battleship Cove
- The Marine Museum
- Sailing program at the park boathouse at 200 Davol Street
- Bristol County Development Council Tourist Information in the Park Visitor Center

For more information call:
(617) 675-5759.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts,

Michael S. Dukakis, Governor;

Evelyn F. Murphy, Secretary of Economic Affairs;
Paul J. Tortolani, Commissioner, Department of Commerce;

James S. Hoyte, Secretary of Environmental Affairs;
James Gutensohn, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Management.

Cover photography courtesy of The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities; Mrs. Baxter K. Tenney, Gardner; The University of Lowell; The Merrimack Valley Textile Museum and The Marine Museum, Fall River.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
COLLECTION

FEB 25 1988



 The spirit of Massachusetts
is the spirit of America.